

In the claims:

Claims 1-4: (Withdrawn)

Claims 5-11: (Cancelled)

Claims 12-13: (Withdrawn)

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Claim 14 (New): A method of obtaining a cultivated crop capable of mitigating the effects of introgression of at least one genetically engineered, commercially desirable genetic trait to an undesirable, uncultivated interbreeding species related to the cultivated crop, the method comprising transforming a population of plants of the cultivated crop to co-express the at least one genetically engineered, commercially desirable genetic trait, and at least one genetically linked, mitigating genetic trait being benign or desirable to the cultivated crop, wherein said mitigating genetic trait is selected such that an undesirable, uncultivated interbreeding species related to the cultivated crop expressing said mitigating genetic trait is less fit than an undesirable uncultivated interbreeding species related to the cultivated crop not expressing said mitigating genetic trait, thereby obtaining a cultivated crop capable of mitigating the effects of introgression of the at least one genetically engineered, commercially desirable genetic trait of the cultivated crop to the undesirable, uncultivated interbreeding species related thereto.

Claim 15 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one commercially desirable genetic trait is selected from the group consisting of herbicide resistance, disease and insect resistance, environmental stress resistance, high productivity, enhanced yield, modified ripening, and genetically modified plant products.

Claim 16 (New): The method of claim 15, wherein said herbicide resistance trait is encoded by AHAS^R gene.

Claim 17 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein said at least one mitigating genetic trait being benign or desirable to the cultivated crop is selected from the group consisting of anti-seed shattering, abolished secondary dormancy,

dwarfism, uniform or delayed ripening, seed stalk bolting, seed coat defects, uniform germination, root storage promotion, biennial growth, non-flowering and sterility.

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Claim 18 (New): The method of claim 17, wherein said mitigating genetic trait being benign or desirable to the cultivated crop is encoded by a gene selected from the group consisting of an ACC deaminase gene, phytochrome gene, endo- β -mannase gene, sterol-C24-methyltransferase gene, and 22 α -hydroxylase cytochrome P450 gene.

Claim 19 (New): A genetic construct for mitigating the effects of introgression of a genetically engineered commercially desirable genetic trait of a cultivated crop to an undesirable, uncultivated interbreeding species related to the cultivated crop, the genetic construct comprising a first nucleic acid segment encoding the at least one commercially desirable genetic trait and a second nucleic acid segment encoding at least one mitigating genetic trait being benign or desirable to the cultivated crop, wherein said at least one mitigating genetic trait is selected such that an undesirable, uncultivated interbreeding species related to the cultivated crop expressing said at least one mitigating genetic trait is less fit than an undesirable uncultivated interbreeding species related to the cultivated crop not expressing said at least one mitigating genetic trait and wherein expression of said commercially desirable and said at least one mitigating genetic trait is genetically linked.

Claim 20 (New): The genetic construct of claim 19, wherein said first and said second nucleic acid segments are covalently linked.

Claim 21 (New): The genetic construct of claim 19, wherein said first and said second nucleic acid segments are functionally linked.

Claim 22 (New): The genetic construct of claim 21, wherein said first and second nucleic acid segments are co-transformed.

Claim 23 (New): The genetic construct of claim 19, wherein the at least one commercially desirable genetic trait is selected from the group consisting of herbicide resistance, disease and insect resistance, environmental stress resistance, high productivity, enhanced yield, early ripening, and genetically modified plant products.

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Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 23, wherein said herbicide resistance trait is encoded by AHAS^R gene.

Claim 25 (New): The method of claim 19, wherein said at least one mitigating genetic trait being benign or desirable to the cultivated crop is selected from the group consisting of anti-seed shattering, abolished secondary dormancy, dwarfism, uniform or delayed ripening, seed stalk bolting, seed coat defects, uniform germination, root storage promotion, biennial growth non-flowering and sterility.

Claim 26 (New): The method of claim 25, wherein said at least one mitigating genetic trait being benign or desirable to the cultivated crop is encoded by a gene selected from the group consisting of an ACC deaminase gene, phytochrome gene, endo- β -mannase gene, sterol-C24-methyltransferase gene, and 22 α -hydroxylase cytochrome P450 gene.
